

FRIDAY



FLASH



299 Main St, Burlington, VT 05401 • 864-1791

Date and Volume Number

March 7, 2014

Upcoming Events

- Mar. 13 School Performance of Willy Wonka
- Mar. 14-15 Very Merry Theatre - Willy Wonka
- Mar. 24 -28 Parent Teacher Conferences
- Mar. 27 - Early Release 11:30am Bag Lunches
- Mar. 28 - No School
- Apr. 1 Reading to End Racism

From the Principal's Desk

For the first time in years, Burlington's school budget was defeated. Knowing that we had already made cuts in what we are able to do prior to the budget being presented to the public, and that the largest portion of the increase in property tax was the direct result of decisions by the State Legislature and the governor, this was disheartening. As always, there is a silver lining in this in that so many budgets around the state were defeated. That serves as a message to the legislature that they cannot simply do a large cost shift from the state coffers to the local taxpayers without a consequence.

Whether or not people have realized it, the state and federal governments have both been cost shifting for over a decade now. By cost shifting, I mean that the two governments have reduced their share of education investment while increasing the local property taxpayers share. Ironically, while cost shifting, both have also been adding more and more requirements and mandates to the weight of what is to be performed by every school. It is akin to a homeowner contracting with a builder to build a home for an agreed upon price, constantly adding features and amenities and then getting angry with the contractor for daring to reflect the additional costs in their bill. I think that we can all acknowledge that if you change the amount of work to be done, there should be an expectation of greater costs.

The governor and legislature continues to point to declining enrollments in the state. That does not hold true for Burlington, but even if it did, here's a fact. Students do not conveniently stop enrolling based upon grades. A school that loses 20 students in a year will not lose 20 3rd graders. The school loses 1-2 student per grade. That means that instead of having 24 students in a classroom, the teacher has 23 or 22. Obviously, that is still a reasonable class size. Schools have to look not just at declining enrollment, but at class sizes, and at upcoming classes. A school could have one small grade, but have large classes coming through in the lower grades. A short term decision to lower costs for one year by eliminating a teaching position would be countered by higher costs in recruitment and training the following year, as well as intangible costs such as the interruption of a continuum of knowledge in school culture, climate, curriculum, and collegial work.

School boards across the state struggled with the impact of decisions at the state house, trying to balance the needs of their students, with the impact on taxpayers. It is a difficult and thankless job. I want to thank the Burlington School Board for all their effort. They did their part in presenting the information of what is needed to the taxpayers. The taxpayers did their part in letting the board know their capacity. Back to the drawing board.

Wednesday Whole School Assembly
All are welcome 8:10 - 8:25

Parent Teacher Conference - Schedule your's today!

Electronic scheduling for our March parent teacher conferences is now available. Please click on the following link to access the teachers' conference schedules (if you cannot access the link directly, please cut and paste the link into an Internet browser):
http://ptcfast.com/schools/Edmunds_Elementary_School

CCTA and Potential for Interruption of Bus Service

Burlington School District has been in frequent contact with CCTA regarding the potential impact of a disruption in public transportation services on students. CCTA has assured us that we will be contacted as soon as possible when information becomes available. Due to the timing of additional negotiations between CCTA and the drivers' Union, information about service on Monday, March 10th will not likely be available until sometime on Saturday or Sunday. Knowing that any notice will be short, we have worked proactively with CCTA and Mountain Transit to develop an alternative transportation plan. CCTA has provided very specific route and stop information related to the Neighborhood Special Routes, which we have shared with Mountain Transit. We will update you on the possibility of the District providing alternative transportation. Over the weekend, if we receive any news from CCTA, we will update you once again as to what to expect on Monday March 10th.

In the meantime, we ask that as parents, you also begin to think of alternative transportation plans, such as car pools or walking trains, in case we are unable to provide an alternative in the event of a disruption in service.

Burlington City Arts BSD Art Show

Congratulations to the following EES students for the art work they produced which was chosen for the 26th Annual BCA BSD Art Show. The work will hang at City Hall throughout the month of March. There will be a reception for students, their families and the mayor, Wednesday, March 19th 5:45-7PM at City Hall.

Congratulations to all!

Hussein Ahmed, Ella Ambroggio, Trenton Bessett, Seb Brown,

Emily Budiman, Aoife Crainich, Anna Diebold, Jaquira Earley Megan Goldsmith, Jerramie Grant, Anna Huener, Ethan Herrick

Sheikuna Hussein, Dieuna Beynnon, Romie Jackson, Joey Manley

Owen Marchessault, Cleary Maxfield, Quinn McNeil, Nash Mora

Luisa Novelli, Jacob O'Neal, Trevin O'Neal, Bailey Parenteau Luca Proia, Ana Sealy, Olivia Sullivan, Xyla Sullivan,

Kenyon Thompson, Glenna Westbrook, Libby Westbrook

Alex Whitehouse, Sasha Whitehouse, Georgia Wool, Maria Worden and Furkan Barut.

EES TOURS FOR INCOMING KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES

Do you know a neighbor or a friend who will have a Kindergartener next year? Encourage them to come tour Edmunds! Tours will take place on Wednesday mornings at 8:05 am from the front entrance. Upcoming tour dates: Mar 12, 19, and 26. Tour participants will have the opportunity to attend the whole school assembly and then take a guided tour from 8:30-9:00. To sign up for a tour, contact Monica Gragg at 864-1791.

PTO NEWS**PAJAMA STORY HOUR AT EES MARCH 18TH 6:30-7:30 PM**

Kindergarteners and future Kindergarteners! Come in your pajamas to listen to a few stories for enjoy some milk and cookies. This is a chance for prospective new families to get a feel for the wonderful community we have here at EES by mingling with our families who are currently in kindergarten. Let your kindergartener be the "big kid" for a night by coming to Pajama Story Hour! Encourage your friends with children entering kindergarten in the fall to come.

SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

As many of you know, the School Budget did not pass. The PTO will keep you updated on this very important process

THANK YOU: EES DRAMA CLUB BAKE SALE VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all who donated baked goods and coffee for the bake sale and worked the table. The EES Drama club raised a significant amount of money. A special thanks to Kim MacQueen, the coordinator of this event.

WILLY WONKA SCHOOL MUSICAL SCHEDULE

* Indicates Pick-Up Time/Place Sun. 3/9:

ALL CAST 11:00 - 4:00 pm* Stage

Full tech/dress rehearsal

*Please eat lunch before you come. We will provide a small snack, but feel free to bring your own or extra. Remember to pack a water bottle.

Mon. 3/10: **ALL CAST, SET CREW and 1/2 CHORUS**

2:50 - 6:00 pm* (1/2 Chorus leaves at 4:30 pm)

Stage

Full Dress Rehearsal for all 3/4/5 Cast, Set Crew and 1/2 Chorus

Wed. 3/12: **ALL CAST, SET CREW and 1/2 CHORUS**

1:50 - 5:30 pm* (1/2 Chorus leaves at 3:30 pm)

Stage

Full Dress rehearsal for all 3/4/5 Cast, Set Crew and 1/2 Chorus

Thurs. 3/13: **In-School Performance**

12:30 - 2:50 pm

Call time (for all cast, set crew & 1/2 Chorus):

11:30 pm)

Fri. 3/14: **Performance - 7pm**

Performance call times: 5th graders - 5:45 pm

3rd & 4th graders & Set Crew - 6:00 pm

1/2 Chorus - 6:30 pm

Please feed your child dinner before they arrive for their call time.

Sat. 3/15: **Performance - 4pm**

Performance call times: 5th graders - 2:45 pm

3rd & 4th graders & Set Crew - 3:00 pm

1/2 Chorus - 3:30 pm

Please feed your child a snack before they arrive for their call time.

Parents and Guardians: Please be patient with us at pick up time during the final weeks of practices as dress rehearsals may run late. The kids are doing a fantastic job as they put the final touches on the performance.

Steps to Keep Ahead of Head Lice

It is the family's responsibility to check for lice on a regular basis.

- 1) Watch for signs of head lice, such as frequent scratching. Lice are mainly spread by direct head to head contact and anyone can get them.
- 2) Check all family members for lice and nits (lice eggs) at least once a week. Nits are the size of a poppy seed, white or tan in color, oval shaped and are attached at an angle to the side of the hair shaft close to the scalp. They are attached to the hair by a glue-like substance and cannot be shaken off. Common places to look for nits are behind the ears, along the neckline, over the crown and under bangs. Adult lice are the size of a sesame seed and vary from gray to brown in color. They do not have wings, but have 6 claws with which to grab the hair shaft and can move very quickly, making them difficult to find in hair.
- 3) Most experts recommend checking wet hair with a metal lice comb for signs of an active infestation. Wetting lice may slow movement making them easier to see.
- 4) Consult your health care provider or a pharmacist before applying pesticides or other lice treatments if anyone involved is pregnant or nursing, has allergies or asthma. Finding a live louse is necessary for a definite diagnosis of lice. Do not treat unless you see live lice or find nits within a half inch of the scalp. If you are not sure it's a louse, save a sample on scotch tape and bring it in to the school nurse.
- 5) Consider all of your treatment options. Remember, lice killing products are pesticides and must be used with caution, following directions carefully. Using Cetaphil brand cleanser is another method of treatment which Medicaid will pay for. See the school nurses for directions. The only completely safe alternative is manual removal by combing. Experts from Harvard recommend daily combing for 1 ½ weeks after no live lice are found.
- 6) Wash bedding and recently worn clothing (within the last 3 days) in hot water and dry in high heat for 30 minutes. Combs and brushes should be soaked in hot water for 10 minutes. Because lice cannot survive off the human body for more than 48 hours, it is not necessary to bag stuffed toys, treat pets, or clean the entire house. It is helpful to vacuum places where your child's head touches – couches, car seats, etc.
- 7) There is no evidence to prove that lice sprays or other prevention products have any positive effect. They waste your time and money.
- 8) If lice are found on your child, please be responsible and notify your child's school, child care provider, or playmates so everyone can work together.